

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
August 20, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Call to order: the meeting was recorded

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Board Members: Present; Izzo, Bianchi & Pfitzenmaier. Absent; Tomlinson and Ruppel.

Approval of the minutes of the July 23, 2012 meeting: Motion Bianchi, seconded by Pfitzenmaier.

Old Business -

Chief's Report - Battalion Chief Kevin Venos gave the Chief's Report. Because of his success in obtaining grants for SEFD over the past 8 years, Chief DeWolf was selected by FEMA to participate in a peer review of the 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. By participating in this prestigious event, Chief will be a member of a select group of men and women who choose the successful candidates who have applied for a portion of the \$285,625,000 of available funding for this year. Chief DeWolf will be at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA. All expenses are paid by FEMA. Since 2004, Chief DeWolf has successfully managed \$875,000 worth of federal grants received by SEFD. This averages out to \$109,375 per year for the past eight years.

BC Venos reported to the Board the meetings and events attended by the Chief & Staff: 4th of July Parade, LEPC Meeting, Meet & Greet (political candidates), and the State Wildland Meeting. BC then gave an update on the Septic System, website visits, the July Run report, the fuels reduction program, Ready, Set, Go Program and the latest fire on the Empire Ranch. This was followed by a brief look at the financial statements. **Bianchi** commented that on the balance sheet what we're really dealing with is cash and there's an adequate amount of cash available to carry us through until it starts coming in again in November or December. BC Venos also brought to the attention to the Board the fact that Life Net 6 had lost it's location at the Sierra Vista Hospital, and what this may mean for the fire district in relation to placing a helicopter at the fire station. The talks are in the very preliminary stages and we'd be keeping the Board posted on any further talks. Administrative Assistant to the Chief Katie Goodwin gave a brief update on the Audit and read a thank you letter from Don Irving. Venos advised that we still had wood for sale, and we've sold several cords to local residents. He also reviewed the Elections Schedule with the Board. Current candidates for the upcoming election: Jen. Rinaldi, Richard Cardillo, Anthony Berry, Doug Ruppel and Ron Izzo.

Correspondence or other items of importance – None

New Business – Holiday Pay change in HR Policy. The board voted to add two holidays to our holiday pay for employees. We are introducing the change tonight to meet SEFD requirements of policy change. Motion to approve by Bianchi; seconded by Pfitzenmaier. Motion carried.

Audience Comments – Soliere – What is a Type 6? Mr. Izzo and BC Venos responded – a small brush truck.

Board member comments – Pfitzenmaier- I believe it was last week the local Patagonia paper, the name escapes me, had a full page discussion that the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department was at risk due to lack of qualified volunteers. I noticed that the Chief in Patagonia, sort of, in my estimation, brushed it off and said we're going to keep going as long as we can or something to that effect. Has there been any feedback here at the station Kevin or Katie, from the community or folks in Patagonia talking about fire districts?

Kevin & Katie – No.

Motion to adjourn – Motion by Pfitzenmaier, seconded by Bianchi, motion carried.